

VERY MUCH LIKE WAR.

Great Britain Makes a Bold Stroke in Checking France and Russia—An Island Seized Near the Dardanelles.

UNSTANTINOPLE, Sept. 15.—Blue jackets and marines from a British ironclad, with light field pieces and Gatling guns, landed Sunday morning at Sigi, on the island of Mitylene and formally occupied that place in the name of the queen of England. There is a good harbor at Sigi, and it is supposed that the British naval officers at Mitylene intend to fortify the island and make it a coaling station and rendezvous for the British Mediterranean fleet. Sigi is on the coast of Mitylene and is about sixty miles from the mouth of the Dardanelles.

FIRST REPORTS IN ENGLAND.

LONDON, Sept. 15.—When the report of the occupation of Mitylene by a British force was received here there was considerable excitement.

The St. James Gazette says that the startling news concerning the island of Mitylene obviously possesses political significance of the first importance. It adds that the island has a position of considerable strategic importance, although possessing little in the way of fortifications.

UNEASINESS IN FRANCE.

PARIS, Sept. 15.—Uneasiness has been caused in diplomatic and financial circles here by the receipt of a dispatch announcing that Sigi, on the west coast of the island of Mitylene, belonging to Turkey, near the coast of Asia Minor and within easy steaming distance of the Dardanelles, has been occupied by British marines. Under ordinary circumstances, little credence would have been placed in this alarming rumor, but coupled with the story broadly circulated on Saturday, that in view of Russia's practical coercion of Turkey in regard to the passage through the Dardanelles of vessels belonging to her volunteer fleet, England intends to occupy the island of Tenedos, at the entrance to the Hellespont, or Dardanelles, more serious attention is paid to it. The island of Mitylene would form the most advantageous position from which Great Britain could control the waters of the Hellespont.

The island of Mitylene has an area of 276 square miles and a population of 40,000. It has good harbors and a fertile soil. The principal towns are Castro, or Mitylene, and Molive. Tenedos, on the other hand, though occupying a much more advantageous position, being to all intents and purposes at the actual entrance of the Hellespont, is only five miles in length and is of a rugged, rocky nature.

TO HOLD WHEAT.

An Alliance Circular Advising Farmers to Hold For \$1.50 a Bushel.

ST. PAUL, Minn., Sept. 15.—The chiefs of the Farmers' Alliance made another sensational move to-day by issuing 1,000,000 circular letters to wheat-growers of Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota, calling a halt in the mad rush of grain to the market, which has been going on the past fortnight. Wheat has been sold and delivered to the railroads so fast that they have been unable to haul it all, and the receipts at the elevators at Duluth and Minneapolis are running from 600 to 2,000 cars a day. This unprecedented movement of grain has had a depressing effect on the market. At the close Saturday afternoon in Minneapolis the price of December wheat was 90¢, a drop of nearly 10¢ a bushel in two weeks. In a consultation at the office of Editor Muller, of the newspaper, the State, it was the general opinion that unless the farmers discontinue their "insane rush" to realize, wheat would soon be selling at 80¢. To-day's letter to the farmers is intended as an eye-opener on the situation, and the alliance men expect it to result in farmers storing their grain in anticipation of better prices in the next two or three weeks. The letter claims that it will be worth \$1,000,000 to the farmers to hold their grain a month. The newspapers are charged with being in league with the speculators and millers to depress prices. It is stated that Europe is short 678,000,000 bushels, which is more than four times as much as the American surplus. The letter concludes:

"Wheat will soon be over \$1.50, no matter how much farmers and speculators work together to keep prices down, and we would advise those who can comprehend the situation to hold their wheat for \$1.50 and add for every month they keep it, say 5 cents, to the price. Hold your wheat, you cannot get left."

SPANISH FLOODS.

Two Thousand Persons Reported Lost By Floods in Spain—Hundreds of Houses Washed Away.

MADRID, Sept. 15.—Serious floods and storms are reported in various parts of Spain. In the province of Toledo, according to reports, 2,000 people have already perished and an immense amount of damage has been done by the swollen waters.

The Amarguillo has overflowed its banks, destroying the town of Consuegra and flooding several villages.

Fresh floods are reported in Almeria, Valencia and Badajoz. Four hundred houses have been destroyed in Almeria and many families made homeless. Five hundred houses are in ruins at Consuegra and the occupants are buried under the debris. Two hundred bodies have already been recovered. Many persons are dying of hunger.

ABOUT PENSIONS.

Commissioner Baum Answers Questions About Delays in Adjudicating Claims—Claims Before the Department.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 15.—Gen. W. H. Knocks, member of congress elect from the Twelfth Ohio district, came to Washington for the purpose of consulting with the commissioner of pensions as to the seeming delay in the settlement of pension claims, and especially as to the answers of the pension bureau on calls made by him as to the status of claims, some of them being answered promptly and others not for months, if at all. In answer Commissioner Baum has written as follows:

Hon. W. H. Knocks, Canton, O.:
DEPARTMENT OF THE BUREAU OF PENSIONS, OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER, WASHINGTON, Sept. 15.—Dear General: In compliance with your request of this date in regard to certain matters connected with the business of the pension office I beg to advise you that I have been and am now doing all I can to secure the prompt adjudication of all claims pending in this bureau.

On July 1 there were 35,750 claimants prosecuting cases before the bureau who have never been pensioned, and there were 30,000 claims pending in the shape of claims for increase of pension and duplicate claims under different laws making a grand total of 65,750 pending claims. It will be obvious from this statement of the volume of business here that it is practically impossible to bring all these cases to immediate settlement—they cannot all be taken up at once.

I have adopted certain rules for the government of business of the office whereby claims which are complete shall have the right of way and be hurried to the earliest possible settlement. I have felt, too, that where claimants are already receiving a considerable pension they are not entitled to as great a proportion of the official force working upon their claims for increase of pension as those claimants, old soldiers and widows, who are not drawing pensions. The official force is so divided that both classes of work is steadily going on, but the larger portion of the official force is upon original work. Now the objective point of all the labor of the office is the adjudication of the pension claims and the issuing of certificates. Any interference with this is an impediment which should be avoided if possible.

Now in addition to letters of members of congress the office last year received 1,170 communications from claimants, their friends and attorneys, making inquiry as to the condition of these claims. These communications poured in at the rate of more than 3.0 per day. Their receipt was acknowledged and the letters sent to the claimants, but it was physically impossible to draw the cases to which they related and give the condition of the same.

You ask why is one congressional call answered sooner than when they are both filed at the same time. Your call is answered when the claims are reached in their turn. Consequently if you file twenty calls for status to-day they will be sent to claims. Some of them may receive immediate attention because the cases are ready, while others may not be taken up for some time to come.

By directing the force of the office to adjudication of claims and keeping the force steadily at work upon that business I have at last brought the office to the adjudication of 30,000 claims per month. I believe that this can be kept up during the present fiscal year, which will be an increase of 10,000 over the work of the last year and the work of the fiscal year just closed (June 30) showed an increase of nearly 10,000 certificates over any previous year.

During the past fiscal year there were received in the office 134,317 communications from members of congress in regard to pension claims. Nearly all the members of both houses are in correspondence with many claimants, and you will observe that an average of more than 300 applicants per day for status were received during the past fiscal year. To draw the claims to which these letters relate and have the examiners from day to day give the status of claims as requested by members would be such an interference with the other business of the bureau that it would be a denial of justice to probably 75,000 or 80,000 pensioners per annum who would otherwise receive certificates upon adjudication of their claims. Where a member of congress is cognizant of the fact from knowledge or accurate information that an old soldier is in such condition physically or financially as to render it important that his claim should have immediate attention, and that fact is brought to the notice of the office, I do not hesitate to have the case called on, examined and the status given, and in such cases I would be glad to respond to your letters.

As a member of Congress you will, of course, be interested to know this great increase in the rolls proposed by the issuance of 30,000 certificates during this fiscal year will not create a deficiency in the appropriation. The appropriation for this year, made by the last congress, is \$18,173,831. I am fully satisfied after a careful examination of the subject that the work which will be done by the office during the fiscal year will not cause a deficiency upon that appropriation.

It seems to me that when the veterans of the war who are your constituents understand the condition of things at the bureau and the efforts that are being made to dispose of this business, they will counsel patience on all sides. The important thing for every claimant is to obtain and furnish the necessary evidence to complete their claims. When this is done they must give notice of the fact of completion and the claim will be taken up promptly and disposed of as soon as possible. Very truly yours,
GREEN B. BAUM, Commissioner.

THE JUVENAL POISONING.

The Husband of the Dead Woman Attacks a Lawyer Whom He Accuses of Poisoning His Wife.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., July 15.—J. M. Juvenal, of Armourdale, while awaiting the preliminary hearing of Millie Pfaffmann in Justice of the Peace Hering's court room this forenoon, attempted with a dagger to take the life of Lawyer "Johnnie" Hale, of Kansas City, Kan., one of Miss Pfaffmann's defenders, and Hale drew a derringer pistol with possible intent to kill his assailant.

The meeting occurred in the justice's court room which was crowded with attorneys on both sides of the case and spectators.

The matter has created intense excitement in Armourdale, as much feeling has already been expressed for and against Juvenal in his accusations against Miss Pfaffmann for attempting to blow up his house, and against Lawyer Hale, whom he charges with poisoning his wife, who died Saturday.

ORTH H. STEIN AGAIN.

Parleyed With Him in Jail Expecting Big Reward.

ATLANTA, Ga., Sept. 14.—Orth H. Stein, notorious as a newspaper writer and a criminal, the murderer of Fredericka in Kansas City and the worker of all sorts of shady dodges, lies in the little jail at Decatur, having been arrested in Stone mountain upon the supposition that he had hanging over his head big rewards for serious and sundry offenses. The officers believe they have a big catch, as it is understood here the rewards offered will equal \$10,000.

Stein was released from the Florida penitentiary by a special act of the legislature before his term expired four months ago. He then went to Savannah, where he worked until last week, when he came here, and under the name of John B. Raymond obtained work on the Constitution. He is an exceedingly clever newspaper man and sketch artist and could have found permanent work, but left, as he said, to accept a place with the art department of the New York Recorder. It has developed, however, that he was recognized here and left to escape detection. From here he went to Rome. There he was again recognized and from there he went to Calhoun in Gordon county, where he was placed under arrest. He was released from there on a writ of habeas corpus, came to Atlanta and, footsore and out of money, he wandered down the Georgia road as far as Stone mountain, where he was again arrested.

Stein does not deny his identity. In a statement for the press he makes a strong plea for mercy. He acknowledges, of course, killing Fredericka in Kansas City. All his troubles, he says, are due to his becoming complicated when a mere boy with bad women. After his trial and acquittal he says he entered upon a career of dissipation and crookedness. Driven to desperation, he did not much care what he did. Now, he says, he is hounded down and every opportunity to earn a living is shut off.

ITALY HOLDS OFF.

No Official Participation in the World's Fair at Chicago.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 14.—Marquis Imperiali, Italian charge d'affaires at Washington, has informed Dr. T. S. Verill, president of the Italo-American committee for the promotion of the Columbian exhibition, that the Italian ministry has acknowledged the receipt of the resolutions adopted at a meeting of Italo-Americans held in Washington on January 21, requesting the Italian government to participate in the Chicago world's fair. The ministry declares that it has decided not to officially participate in any international exhibition, that for that reason the government declined the invitation to officially participate in the French exhibition held in Paris in 1889, and that the refusal to be officially represented at the Columbian exhibition is in consequence of said rule, never before departed from, which should not be interpreted as an act of hostility toward a great enterprise or an effort to prevent the Italians from exhibiting; that, on the contrary, the government wishing the success of the Columbian exhibition has given the widest publicity to the invitation of its committee and will do all in its power to assist such of its citizens as desire to exhibit, giving them every possible facility.

BALMACEDA.

Police Still Searching For the Fugitive President—The United States Ahead in Recognizing the New Chilean Government.

VALPARAISO, Sept. 14.—The police authorities are still prosecuting a vigorous search throughout Santiago for the fugitive ex-President Balmaceda. It is now the general belief that he is hiding in a monastery. Several of the institutions have already been visited by the police, but so far no trace of Balmaceda has been discovered. In spite of this fact rumors gain ground that he has found protection under the clerical wings.

It is stated on reliable authority that all of the men known to have been active supporters of Balmaceda, as well as those who were guilty of peculation, will lose their property by confiscation.

The foreign ministers are much chagrined at the promptitude displayed by Minister Egan in scoring a point in behalf of the United States in recognizing the junta's authority ahead of any other nation.

MYSTERIOUS POISONING.

Death of a Woman in Armourdale, Kan., Who Evidently Had Enemies.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Sept. 14.—Mrs. Anna Juvenal, wife of J. M. Juvenal, of Armourdale, died at 2 o'clock Saturday morning, the result of poison given her while in a delicate condition. Mr. and Mrs. Juvenal had been married only a little over three months. They were married at Excelsior Springs, Mo., on the evening of June 6 last. Juvenal had been divorced from his first wife only ten days when he married his second wife.

On the night of August 10 last, at about 11 o'clock, a portion of their house was destroyed by an explosion, supposed to have been caused by dynamite. The porch was torn off and a small corner of the building was torn out.

Millie Pfaffmann was arrested the next day charged with committing the crime and is now under \$500 bond to appear before Justice George Hering next Monday morning for trial.

NO SECESSION.

Proceedings of the Anti-Sub-Treasury Alliance Convention at St. Louis—No Withdrawal From the National Organization—Will Work Within the Order.

ST. LOUIS, Sept. 17.—In the anti-sub-treasury alliance convention yesterday the report of the committee on resolutions was adopted. The resolutions indorse the Fort Worth platform and censure Macine.

The committee on permanent organization reported as follows:

We, a large number of the Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union representing our constituencies, in convention assembled, being desirous of settling the differences existing in our order, agree to the appointment of a committee of seven members, who are authorized to go before the supreme council of the Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union of America, which convenes at Indianapolis in November next, and submit to said council our objection to that part of the demands of the order (sub-treasury and government land loan schemes) which were adopted by the supreme council at its meeting at Omaha, Neb. Said committee are authorized and empowered to use their own discretion in the premises. Pending these negotiations for an amicable settlement of our differences, the committee hereto provided for shall constitute a bureau of information and shall use all legitimate means for informing the subordinate unions and the people in regard to the true views and principles now engaging the attention of the industrial classes of America. Said committee is authorized to secure competent speakers and suitable literature and devise ways and means for paying all expenses of an educational campaign.

Said committee is authorized to call a convention of all the anti-sub-treasury brethren throughout the country to consider the report of the committee as to the result of the conference with the supreme council, and may fix the time and place of meeting, and make such arrangements as may be deemed necessary.

We further recommend that each state select a committee, such committee to constitute a state bureau of information, which shall be empowered to make all necessary arrangements to obtain speakers and conduct a campaign of education against the sub-treasury and land loan schemes in the respective states, and shall co-operate with the national committee.

This did not satisfy R. W. Nicholds, of Missouri, and he offered the following amendment, which was unanimously adopted: "That said committee be authorized to file the convention's unalterable and unending objection to the passage of any resolution whatever binding the individual members of the Farmers' Alliance to any political course of action whatever, and we hereby protest against the action of any previous meeting infringing upon the individual political rights of any member of the order."

Another amendment offered by J. L. Goodman, of Texas, was also adopted as follows: "We further recommend that each state committee organize a bureau of information in each county in their respective states who shall co-operate with the state and national committees." The report as a whole was then adopted by a unanimous vote.

The committee of seven was as follows: B. W. Nicholds, of Missouri; J. M. Crews, of Tennessee; T. J. Patillo, of Texas; R. F. Passmore, of Mississippi; at large, U. S. Hall, W. S. McAllister and W. Pope Yeaman.

Then came one of the most important declarations of the convention. It has been maintained right along by many of the delegates, and some even went so far as to give out to the press that a new state organization in Missouri had been organized, that this convention was for the express purpose of seceding from the National Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union and forming a new body in opposition to the present organization.

A. S. Smith, of Missouri, offered the following, which was unanimously adopted:

Whereas, The impression has gained some credence that either the primary or ultimate object of this meeting is for the purpose of effecting a separation or division of the order and the formation of a distinct organization; therefore,

Resolved, That such purpose is not and has not at any time been the intention of this meeting, but that its object is purely one of expressing its opposition to the proposed sub-treasury and land loan enactments, and to institute an educational movement in that direction, the only bringing the organization back to those principles of wisdom, justice and fraternity upon which it was originally based.

The convention then took a recess. Upon reassembling the committee on permanent organization asked for a further hearing and the following was presented and adopted:

Believing that the future policies and prosperity of the government and of the Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union depend in a large measure upon the action of this body and in setting forth plans for work in the future, and fully realizing the fact that we need the hearty co-operation of all people and especially of the members of the order; and in order to secure the same we recommend that the members of each state who oppose the sub-treasury and land loan schemes and the government ownership of railroads, and who are not represented in this meeting, be respectfully invited to co-operate with us, and are further requested to proceed to organize and to elect one member from each state who shall become a member of the national central committee provided for in the report of the committee on permanent organization.

The committee on resolutions then reported a resolution indorsing the Dallas (Tex.) Farmers' World, which paper is a steadfast opponent of the sub-treasury and land loan scheme. It also reported a distinctive platform in which the following resolutions were unanimously adopted by the convention:

First—A reduction of the tariff to a revenue basis and a tariff for revenue only. Second—The free and unlimited coinage of gold and silver—the money of the constitution—and such currency as may be founded thereon as the surest, safest and most permanent settlement of the money question.

The Journal of Agriculture, of St. Louis, was also indorsed.

APPALLING IN THE EXTREME.

The Loss of Life Awaited By the Floods in Spain.

MADRID, Sept. 16.—News from the flooded districts show an awful state of affairs. Accounts from Consuegra are appalling in the extreme. The town is a heap of ruins, surrounded by a vast expanse of water, leaving visible here and there tree tops, chimneys and floating wreckage of all kinds. Some of the streets have been partially cleared and made passable, but they are almost deserted. Here and there may be seen groups of destitute people gazing in terror at their wrecked homes. With unceasing exertions the authorities are restoring something like order. The police have suppressed pillage. Food is arriving for the sufferers. The burial of victims proceeds and with the constant discovery of each corpse it will be a long time before the mournful task is over. It is estimated that 5,000 head of horses and stock have been drowned.

Survivors give harrowing accounts of the effect of the flood. Many mothers were seen struggling in the water to hold up children and finally succumbed to the rush of the torrent. Others were confined in rooms with no hope of escape until the collapse of the walls opened a refuge. One man who was caught on a wooden bridge saw hundreds of persons float past him crying piteously for help, which he was unable to give.

The bodies of sixty persons were found in a public hall here where they had been overtaken by the flood in the midst of a wedding feast.

A heavy rain fell Friday and Saturday, swelling the mountain torrents that poured into the Amarguillo. The flood destroyed four stone bridges and twenty mills, besides an enormous number of houses. Wreckage and corpses were carried forty miles. The mayor of Consuegra puts the fatalities there at 3,000. In some places limbs have been found separated from bodies.

The flood at Almeria has plunged the city in absolute darkness, having stopped operations at the electric light establishments and gas works. The river Adary has overflowed its banks and converted the valley into a vast lake.

WAR SCARE ENDED.

Merely a Party of Picnickers From British Ships.

LONDON, Sept. 16.—An official dispatch received at Berlin from Constantinople denies that Sigi has been occupied by a British force.

It is now stated that the Mitylene scare arose from the fact that a party of British navy officers Saturday last picnicked on a desert islet off Cape Sigi and that they re-embarked the same evening on board their vessel and sailed away Sunday.

A dispatch from Paris says that M. Ribot, minister of foreign affairs, has received a dispatch from the French consul at Smyrna, stating that a British naval division which has been maneuvering near Sigi, on the island of Mitylene, has left that island.

A dispatch from Rome says that the Escribo contains an article, supposed to have been inspired by the minister of war, which predicts an outbreak of war during the coming winter and urges the government to take active steps to prepare the army and navy for it. This is supposed to be the prelude to a demand for a military credit.

A dispatch from Kiev says that an Austrian spy named Krasnicki has been sentenced to be transported to Siberia, and three Russians who were his accomplices have each been sentenced to eight years' penal servitude. Krasnicki bribed a man attached to the staff of the 119th army corps to purloin military documents.

MILLERS' "DUST."

An Insinuation That It Pays For the Million Alliance Circulars.

ST. PAUL, Minn., Sept. 16.—It has been said in general business and grain circles that the last million copies of the "hold your wheat" circulars are being circulated at the expense of the Minneapolis mills. The document is being sent out from the office of the alliance paper, The State, which has not money enough to circulate 100,000 copies. Col. S. H. Graves, of Duluth, one of the largest elevator owners in the west, did not hesitate to say last evening that the circular is inspired by a clique of speculators.

When the matter was called to the attention of Ignatius Donnelly, president of the Minnesota alliance, he said that the alliance had nothing to do with the circulars, which, however, have the approval of what is known as the reform press association at Washington, although that association is not paying the bills.

The managers of the elevators all charge the mills with paying the bills for sending out the circulars. Some of them even go so far as to charge Charles A. Pillsbury, manager of the English syndicate mills, with the authorship of the last circular.

Consolidated Telegraphers.

ST. LOUIS, Sept. 16.—The long talked of amalgamation between the Brotherhood of Telegraphers and the Order of Railway Telegraphers was accomplished at yesterday's session of the grand lodge of the former order. Messrs. Ramsey and Thurston appeared in behalf of the railroad men, with power to consummate the consolidation under the agreement arrived at at their meeting in June last, and Mr. Eugene V. Debs was present as arbitrator on any question of differences that might arise.